



The

WEST WING



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Letter from the President

On behalf of Jill and the whole Biden family, I want to welcome you to the West Wing of the White House—the People’s House.

On any given day, visitors to the West Wing include public servants, foreign dignitaries, and civic leaders. But the most important guests that we welcome are people like you, who represent the diversity of the American experience, the resilience of the American people, and the possibilities of the American future.

As you walk around these hallowed halls, I hope you pause for a moment and reflect on the history that has happened here. Who we are as Americans and as a country are tied to the decisions made in these rooms. And while no single space can convey the full story of America, the West Wing embodies our Nation’s perseverance through adversity and the promise for a better tomorrow.

I am humbled to share this historic place with you, and I wish you an enjoyable visit.

Sincerely,

West Wing Floor Plan



This Page

- ① Vice President's Hallway
- ② Navy Mess
- ③ Situation Room (View Only)
- ④ Photo Office (View Only)

Opposite Page

- ⑤ West Colonnade
- ⑥ Rose Garden
- ⑦ Cabinet Room
- ⑧ Oval Office
- ⑨ Roosevelt Room
- ⑩ Upper Press Hallway
- ⑪ West Wing Lobby
- ⑫ James S. Brady Press Briefing Room



Vice President's Hallway

Located just above this hallway is one of three offices occupied by the Vice President and her staff. While the VP completes day to day work from the West Wing, the Vice President also has ceremonial office space in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and on Capitol Hill. Along this corridor are photos depicting the Vice President's time in office.

Navy Mess

(pictured below)

Navy Stewards have provided food service to the Commander in Chief since 1880. Under President Harry Truman, the modern White House Navy Mess was established. The Navy's culinary specialists prepare and serve fine foods in this West Wing location. Seated reservations are available to senior officials including commissioned officers, Cabinet members, and their guests. West and East Wing staffers can enjoy food made in the Navy Mess from a take-out window located adjacent to the dining room.





Situation Room

(pictured above)

Months after being sworn into office, President John F. Kennedy was confronted with the Bay of Pigs Invasion and insisted that intelligence information be fed directly into the White House. The Situation Room was established to meet President Kennedy's request.

The current "Sit Room" is a 5,000-square-foot complex of rooms that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to monitor national and world intelligence information. Televisions for secure video conferences and technology can link the President to generals and world leaders around the globe.

Photo Office

The White House Photo Office captures pictures every day to document the President's term in office. Some of these photos are displayed on the walls of the West Wing as jumbo prints. Every few weeks, these images are refreshed and hung in offices across the complex. Visit <http://flickr.com/whitehouse> to see more official White House photos.





West Colonnade

Also known as the “45 second commute,” the West Colonnade was built for Thomas Jefferson as a connection to the White House stables. The open columned pavilion is now used by the President and his staff to travel between the West Wing and the Executive Residence.





Rose Garden & South Lawn

The Rose Garden was created by First Lady Ellen Axson Wilson in 1913. It was redesigned by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy to serve as a presidential reception area and event space. The garden was made more accessible in 2020, with the addition of a footpath between the lawn and the rose beds.

The South Lawn, which stretches to the White House south gate, is the site of the President's Marine One arrivals and departures and includes the White House tennis court, putting green, and as of March 2009, a kitchen garden. The White House Kitchen Garden has over 50 kinds of vegetables as well as berries, herbs, a beehive, and garden beds planted seasonally with flowers to cut and enjoy, such as carnations, calla lilies, and tulips.

President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson gifted the Children's Garden to the White House in 1968, and it opened officially as a secluded play area for children on the lower part of the South Lawn in early 1969. Handprints and footprints of presidential grandchildren cast in bronze are set into the flagstone terrace and pathway.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford installed the first outdoor swimming pool on the South Grounds.



Cabinet Room

In the Cabinet Room, the President meets with Cabinet Secretaries, members of Congress, and foreign Heads of State on topics ranging from energy efficiency to national security.

When the President meets around the large mahogany table with his Cabinet, each is assigned a chair based on the date their department was established with the oldest Cabinet departments seated closest to the

center. The President's chair sits at the center of the table on the east side with his back to the Rose Garden doors and opposite the Vice President.

As a reflection of their inspiration and governing style, Presidents select the portraits that hang in the Cabinet Room. President Biden's Cabinet Room displays portraits of Presidents George Washington and Harry S. Truman on the south



wall, and portraits of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower on the west wall. The north wall displays The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, July 4, 1776 by Charles-Édouard Armand-Dumaresq, flanked by the busts of President George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.



Official Cabinet Seating Arrangement

- 1 Department of State 2 Department of the Treasury
- 3 Department of Defense 4 Department of Justice
- 5 Department of the Interior 6 Department of Agriculture
- 7 Department of Commerce 8 Department of Labor
- 9 Department of Health and Human Services
- 10 Department of Housing and Urban Development
- 11 Department of Transportation 12 Department of Energy
- 13 Department of Education 14 Department of Veterans Affairs
- 15 Department of Homeland Security
- 16 Environmental Protection Agency 17 Office of Management and Budget
- 18 Director of National Intelligence 19 US Trade Representative
- 20 UN Ambassador 21 Council of Economic Advisers
- 22 Small Business Administration 23 White House Chief of Staff
- 24 Office of Science and Technology Policy







Oval Office

As the official office of the President and his primary place of work, the Oval Office provides the President with easy access to his senior advisors and the Executive Residence. Beyond its distinctive shape, the most famous feature of the Oval Office is the Resolute desk. Made from the oak timbers of the British ship H.M.S. Resolute, the Resolute desk was a gift to President Rutherford B. Hayes from Queen Victoria in 1880. The desk has been used by every President since then except Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford.

Other notable artworks in the Oval Office are the portraits of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Benjamin Franklin; the busts of César Chávez, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and Harry Truman; and a sculpture of the Chiricahua Apache tribe.

Each President decorates the Oval Office to suit his tastes, but some features remain constant including the white marble mantel from the original 1909 President's Office, the Presidential seal in the ceiling, and the two flags behind the President's desk—the U.S. flag and the President's flag.



Roosevelt Room

(pictured below)

Once called the Fish Room by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Roosevelt Room occupies the original location of President Theodore Roosevelt's office when the West Wing was built in 1902. President Nixon named the room in 1969 to honor Theodore Roosevelt for building the West Wing and Franklin Roosevelt for its expansion.

On the southeast wall hangs President Theodore Roosevelt's Congressional Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously on January 16, 2001 to honor his heroism in the Spanish-American War. To the left of the fireplace hangs President Theodore Roosevelt's Nobel Peace Prize, awarded in 1906 for his mediation of the Russo-Japanese War peace settlement. It was the first Nobel Prize awarded to an American and the first awarded to a sitting president.





West Wing Lobby

(pictured above)

The West Wing Lobby is the reception room for visitors of the President, Vice President, and White House staff. The current lobby was renovated by Richard Nixon in 1970 to provide a smaller, more intimate receiving space. The English-made mahogany bookcase (c.1770) is one of the oldest pieces of furniture in the White House collection.

Left of the bookcase: *Emigrant Scene* by William Powell, c.1840.

Right of the bookcase: *Donner Lake from the Summit* by Edwin Deakin, 1876.

West wall: *Nevada Falls, Yosemite* by Thomas Hill, 1889.

East wall: *Vernal Falls, Yosemite* by Thomas Hill, 1889.



James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

The Press Briefing Room sits atop an empty swimming pool installed in 1933 for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's physical therapy while battling polio. During the Nixon Administration, more space was required to accommodate the growing Press Corps. President Nixon's suggestion to "throw them in the pool!" was taken quite literally and in 1970 the Briefing Room was constructed on top of the emptied pool.

In 2000, the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room was named in honor of former Press Secretary, James S. Brady, who sustained lifelong injuries after he was shot during a 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. Today, the White House Press Corps is made up of over 500 members. With just 49 chairs (arranged 7 by 7), it is up to the White House Correspondents' Association to decide who receives these coveted seats. A plaque on each seat displays the name of the news organization to which it is assigned.

Thank you for visiting the West Wing!

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